Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating an antibody, the method comprising:

administering to a first mammal a nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein and expressing the fusion protein in the first mammal, wherein the fusion protein contains a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, ~~and~~ wherein the second amino acid sequence contains a first member of a specific binding pair, and wherein the nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal intravenously, intramuscularly, intraarterially, intradermally, intraperitoneally, intranasally, or subcutaneously;

removing from the first mammal a biological sample that contains the fusion protein;

binding a second member of the specific binding pair to the fusion protein via the first member of the specific binding pair to thereby isolate the fusion protein from the biological sample; and

administering ~~the fusion protein~~ to a second mammal the fusion protein or a portion thereof comprising the first amino acid sequence, to thereby generate an antibody response in the second mammal against the first amino acid sequence of the fusion protein.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising cleaving the first amino acid sequence from the second amino acid sequence following the isolation of the fusion protein from the biological sample.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is an Fc domain of an immunoglobulin.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is serum.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a lysate of the biological sample.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second member of the specific binding pair is an antibody.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second member of the specific binding pair is an antibody.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the isolation of the fusion protein from the biological sample comprises ~~further comprising~~ immobilizing the fusion protein on a solid phase surface.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the isolation of the fusion protein from the biological sample comprises ~~further comprising~~ immobilizing the fusion protein on a solid phase surface.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the isolation of the fusion protein from the biological sample comprises ~~further comprising~~ immobilizing the fusion protein on a solid phase surface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is a peptide of at least five amino acids in length.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is identical to all or a portion of a naturally occurring human protein.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising isolating from the second mammal antisera containing an antibody that specifically binds to the first amino acid sequence of the fusion protein, wherein the antibody is produced in the second mammal following the administration of the fusion protein or a portion thereof comprising the first amino acid sequence.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising, following the administration to the second mammal of the fusion protein or a portion thereof comprising the first amino acid sequence, removing a B lymphocyte from the second mammal and fusing the B lymphocyte *in vitro* with a second cell to form a hybridoma, wherein the hybridoma produces a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to the first amino acid sequence of the fusion protein.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing components of the biological sample that are not bound to the second member of the specific binding pair, to thereby provide a purified fusion protein.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of generating an antibody, the method comprising:

administering to a first mammal an isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein and expressing the protein in the first mammal, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal intravenously, intramuscularly, intraarterially, intradermally, intraperitoneally, intranasally, or subcutaneously;

removing from the first mammal a biological sample that contains the protein; and

administering ~~the protein~~ to a second mammal the protein or a portion thereof, to thereby generate an antibody response in the second mammal against the protein.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the protein is a fusion protein.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the fusion protein contains a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, ~~and~~ wherein the second amino acid sequence contains a first member of a specific binding pair, and wherein the antibody response is generated against the first amino acid sequence.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is an Fc domain of an immunoglobulin.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first member of the specific binding pair is a peptide of at least five amino acids in length.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the biological sample is serum.

24. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising generating a lysate of the biological sample.

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising isolating from the second mammal antisera containing an antibody that specifically binds to the protein, wherein the antibody is produced in the second mammal following the administration of the protein.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising, following the administration to the second mammal of the protein, removing a B lymphocyte from the second

mammal and fusing the B lymphocyte *in vitro* with a second cell to form a hybridoma, wherein the hybridoma produces a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to the protein.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the wherein the nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal intravenously.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the wherein the nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal intramuscularly.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the wherein the nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal subcutaneously.

30. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the wherein the isolated nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal intravenously.

31. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the wherein the isolated nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal intramuscularly.

32. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the wherein the isolated nucleic acid is administered to the first mammal subcutaneously.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is at least 25 amino acids in length.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is at least 50 amino acids in length.

35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is at least 100 amino acids in length.

36. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the first amino acid sequence is at least 25 amino acids in length.

37. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the first amino acid sequence is at least 50 amino acids in length.

38. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the first amino acid sequence is at least 100 amino acids in length.